

# 2002 *Indiana Deer Season Summary*



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## **Season Framework and Regulations**

### General

The 2002 Indiana deer hunting season was comprised of 4 segments: early archery (October 1 - December 1), firearms (November 16 - December 1), muzzleloader (December 7 - 22), and late archery (December 7 - January 5). This was the ninth year that the early archery season extended into and throughout the firearm season. This was the seventh year that the late archery season extended through the first Sunday in January rather than ending on the last day in December.

This was the sixth year that the crossbow was legal for hunting under an archery license by non-handicapped hunters. The crossbow was eligible for use only in the late archery season and only for antlerless deer. Special public hunts were held at Muscatatuck and Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuges.

In designated urban zones hunters could harvest deer 2 weeks prior to the opening of the early archer season. In the urban zones hunters were allowed to harvest up to 4 deer (4 antlerless or 3 antlerless and 1 antlered). These deer did not count towards any other statewide bag limit. The statewide archery bag limit was 2 deer. Hunters could take 1 deer on a regular archery license and an additional deer on an extra archery license. Either archery license could be used to take an either-sex deer, but a total of one (1) antlered deer could be taken by archers on the two licenses. The gun bag limit was 1 antlered deer during the firearms season and 1 either-sex deer during the muzzleloader season. However, hunters could only take a total of one (1) antlered deer during the combination of the firearm, muzzleloader, and archery seasons. A single firearms license was required to hunt with any or all shotgun, muzzleloader, or handgun during the firearms season, and a muzzleloader license (separate from the firearms license) was required to hunt during the muzzleloader season. The resident deer license fee was \$24.00 and the nonresident fee was \$120.75. Resident landowners and lessees who hunted on land they own or lease and gained agricultural benefit from this land were exempt from purchasing deer licenses.

### Antlerless Permits

For the last 19 years, antlerless deer could be taken during the firearms season by use of bonus county antlerless permits in addition to the above bag limits. Initially, the bonus county antlerless permits were limited to a specific quota for each county and were only valid for the specified county. One permit per hunter was available via a drawing. During the first years of the program, the left-over permits were destroyed. The program was liberalized in subsequent years. During the last year of the quota system (1995), individual hunters could pick up multiple left-over permits. Left-over permits were available on a first come basis at one site in each specific county where the permits were valid.

The bonus antlerless program was revised in 1996 so that hunters did not have to apply through a drawing. 2002 was the seventh year of this modified antlerless bag limit and permit disbursement system. An unlimited number of permits were available at every deer license vendor statewide, and each permit could be used in any county in the state. Permits were available to both resident and non-resident hunters. Each

permit was valid for 1 antlerless deer, and hunters were allowed to take up to 4 antlerless deer statewide. Hunters could not exceed individual county bag limits which ranged from 0 to 4. County bag limits were published in the Hunting and Trapping Guide. Since 1993, the bonus county permits could be used during the muzzleloader and late archery seasons if they were not filled during the firearms season. In 2002, 4 counties had a bag limit of 1 and regulations which restricted the season of use for Bonus Antlerless permits to the last 4 days of the firearms season plus the muzzleloader and late archery seasons. Two counties had a Bonus Antlerless bag limit of zero (0).

The additional archery permit regulation which allowed hunters to take additional deer with archery equipment in defined urban deer zones remained in place for a seventh year. However, in 2002, this was liberalized to allow more deer to be taken and to allow hunting prior to the start of the statewide archery season. Each deer required a separate additional archery license. The hunting season for urban deer began 2 weeks prior to the regular archery season, and continued throughout the statewide archery season. The total archery bag limit within an urban deer zone, excluding bonus county antlerless permits, was 6 deer.

### **Number of Deer Harvested**

A total of 104,428 deer was legally harvested in Indiana during 2002. This harvest was a 1% increase from the 103,163 deer harvested during 2001. Compared to 2001, the antlered buck harvest of 47,177 represented a 2% decrease from last year, and the antlerless harvest of 57,251 was up 4%.

### **2002 INDIANA DEER HARVEST**

(Percent change compared to 2001 is shown in parentheses)

<u>Number of deer harvested</u>			
Season	Antlered	Antlerless	Total
Early Archery (Oct. 1 - Dec. 1)	7,397 (-38)	10,749 (-3)	18,146 (-22)
Firearms (Nov. 16 - Dec. 1)	37,119 (+10)	36,682 (+7)	73,801 (+9)
Muzzleloader (Dec. 7 - 22)	2,441 (+1)	8,914 (+3)	11,355 (+2)
Late Archery (Dec. 7 - Jan. 5)	220 (-15)	906 (+25)	1,126 (+15)
Totals	47,177 (-2)	57,251 (+4)	104,428 (+1)

Starting in 2002, 9 urban deer zones could be hunted with archery equipment two weeks prior to the opening day of early archery season (Sept. 15 - Sept. 30). In September, 199 deer (75 antlered and 124 antlerless) were reported as being harvested within these zones. Tippecanoe (59) and Vanderburgh (28) counties harvested the most deer in the additional 2 week season framework. The complete harvest taken as a result of the urban deer zone regulations is impossible to report. Even for those counties that lay completely within an urban deer zone (Marion and Vanderburgh), we can not determine the number of deer that were taken on regular licenses versus the urban deer zone extra archery permits.

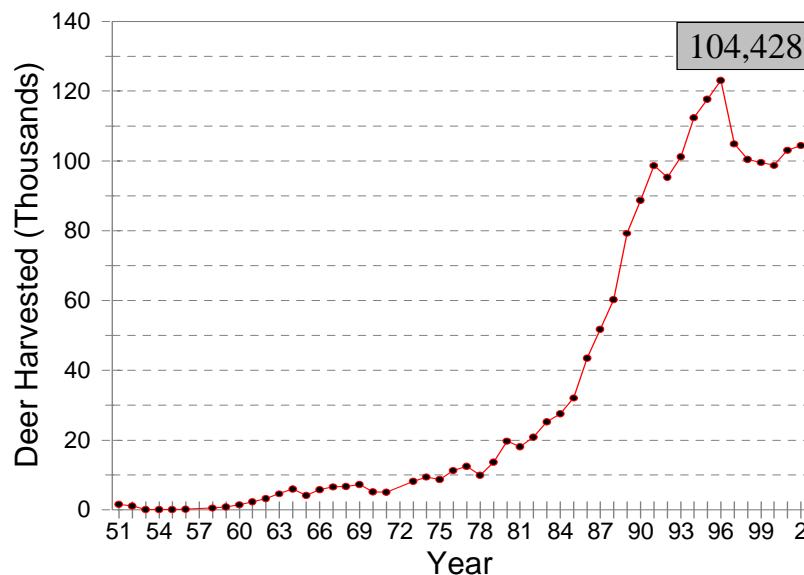
The early archery season harvest of 18,146 deer comprised 17.4% of the total harvest and was 22% lower than during 2001. The late archery season harvest of 1,126 deer comprised 1% of the total harvest and was 14.5% higher than during 2001. The combined early and late archery season harvest of 19,272 was 20.1% lower than the 24,116 deer harvested during 2001. Antlerless deer comprised 60% of the total archery harvest which was 11 percentage points higher than last year.

The total crossbow harvest for the year, including deer taken on handicapped hunter crossbow permits, was 387 animals compared with 410 for 2001. During the late archery season, the crossbow harvest was 59 deer compared with 20 for 2001.

The firearms season harvest of 73,801 deer was 9% higher than during 2001 and comprised 70.7% of the total harvest. Antlerless harvest (36,682) increased 7.0% for this season, and the antlered buck harvest (37,119) increased 10.3%. Antlerless deer comprised 50% of the firearm season harvest which is the same as in 2001.

The muzzleloader season harvest of 11,355 deer comprised 10.8% of the total harvest equaling that of 2001. As in past years, a very large percentage (78.5%) of the muzzleloader season harvest was composed of antlerless deer.

### INDIANA DEER HARVEST, 1951-2002



The 2002 harvest represented the second increase in total harvest over the previous year since the peak harvest in 1996. Approximately 1.86 million deer have been legally harvested during the past 51 deer hunting seasons.

### **DAILY HARVEST DURING THE FIREARMS SEASON AND THE LAST 16 DAYS OF THE CONCURRENT EARLY ARCHERY SEASON FOR 2002**

Date		Day	Antlered		Antlerless		Total	
			N	%	N	%	N	%
16	November	Sat	14,099	62	8,730	38	22,829	31
17	November	Sun	6,641	57	5,076	43	11,717	16
18	November	Mon	2,137	52	1,971	48	4,108	6
19	November	Tue	1,308	53	1,148	47	2,456	3
20	November	Wed	1,328	52	1,207	48	2,535	3
21	November	Thu	710	48	766	52	1,476	2
22	November	Fri	992	49	1,036	51	2,028	3
23	November	Sat	2,838	42	3,844	58	6,682	9
24	November	Sun	1,793	41	2,601	59	4,394	6
25	November	Mon	500	41	712	59	1,212	2
26	November	Tue	478	38	766	62	1,244	2
27	November	Wed	509	41	746	59	1,255	2
28	November	Thu	1,087	37	1,872	63	2,959	4
29	November	Fri	941	30	2,150	70	3,091	4
30	November	Sat	904	31	2,039	69	2,943	4
1	December	Sun.	930	30	2,221	70	3,151	4
Totals*			37,195		36,885		74,080	

\* Totals differ from those in previous table because date of harvest is not known for some registered deer and this table includes deer from both the firearms season and the last 16 days of the early archery season.

### **Age and Sex of the Harvest**

The age and sex structure of the 2002 deer harvest was 45.2% adult males (antlered bucks), 33.9% adult females, 10.8% male fawns (button bucks) and 10.2% female fawns. About 53% of the antlered bucks and 40% of the adult does harvested during 2002 were yearlings (1.5 years old).

### AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE OF THE HARVEST, 1987-2002

Year	Adults		Fawns		Total (%)
	Males (%)	Females (%)	Males (%)	Females (%)	
1987	29,530 (57)	11,139 (21)	6,164 (12)	4,945 (10)	51,778 (100)
1988	34,358 (57)	13,170 (22)	7,050 (12)	5,656 (9)	60,234 (100)
1989	40,503 (51)	19,464 (24)	10,737 (14)	8,614 (11)	79,318 (100)
1990	43,080 (48)	23,680 (27)	12,373 (14)	9,630 (11)	88,763 (100)
1991	41,593 (42)	31,211 (32)	14,626 (15)	11,253 (11)	98,683 (100)
1992	43,508 (46)	25,387 (27)	14,262 (15)	12,157 (13)*	95,314 (100)
1993	44,424 (44)	27,704 (27)	14,751 (15)	14,335 (14)*	101,214 (100)
1994	50,812 (45)	32,466 (29)	15,487 (14)	13,651 (12)*	112,416 (100)
1995	47,098 (40)	40,946 (35)	16,398 (14)	13,287 (11)*	117,729 (100)
1996	47,315 (38)	39,913 (32)	17,307 (14)	18,551 (15)*	123,086 (100)
1997	42,537 (41)	35,163 (34)	14,039 (13)	13,198 (12)*	104,937 (100)
1998	44,955 (45)	30,711 (31)	12,257 (12)	12,538 (12)*	100,461 (100)
1999	46,371 (46)	30,474 (31)	11,645 (12)	11,129 (11)*	99,618 (100)
2000	44,621 (45)	31,986 (32)	11,072 (11)	11,046 (11)*	98,725 (100)
2001	48,357 (47)	31,806 (31)	11,230 (11)	11,770 (11)*	103,163 (100)
2002	47,177 (45)	35,357 (34)	11,291 (11)	10,603 (10)*	104,428 (100)

\* Number of adult and fawn females is projected from the % fawns in the females aged at the biological check stations (not from the ratio of fawn does to fawn bucks).

### Distribution of the Harvest

The number of deer harvested in individual counties ranged from 64 to 2,584. Harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 54 counties and 2,000 deer in 10 of those 54 counties. For the sixth consecutive year, no counties harvested more than 3,000 deer. The five counties with the highest total harvest were Steuben, Franklin, Switzerland, Dearborn, and Washington. The five counties with the lowest total harvest were Tipton, Benton, Marion, Rush, and Hancock. The antlered buck harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 4 counties equaling 2001, while the antlerless harvest exceeded 1,000 deer in 14 counties vs. 13 counties in 2001. Antlerless deer comprised at least 50% of the total harvest in 71 of the state's 92 counties.

### Harvest by Type of Hunting Equipment

Five types of equipment were legal for hunting deer during 2002: bow, shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun, and crossbow. The above equipment types accounted for 18.1, 61.1, 18.9, 1.6, and 0.4 percent of the total deer harvest respectively. Harvest by shotgun, muzzleloader, and handgun increased 7%, 11%, and 4% from 2001, while harvest by bow and by crossbow decreased 20% and 6% respectively from 2001 levels.

## HARVEST BY TYPE OF HUNTING EQUIPMENT, 1998-2002\*

(Percent of total is shown in parentheses)

Number of deer harvested/Year

Equipment type	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Bow	18,360 (18)	20,010 (20)	22,131 (22)	23,765 (23)	18,911 (18)
Shotgun	65,847 (66)	62,849 (63)	59,994 (61)	59,688 (58)	63,794 (61)
Muzzleloader	14,149 (14)	14,739 (15)	14,704 (15)	17,738 (17)	19,711 (19)
Handgun	1,886 (2)	1,796 (2)	1,615 (2)	1,562 (2)	1,625 (2)
Crossbow					
Handicap	180 (0)	174 (0)	227 (0)	390 (0)	328 (0)
Late archery	39 (0)	50 (0)	54 (0)	20 (0)	59 (0)
Totals	100,461	99,618	98,725	103,163	104,428

\*Values within this table do not exactly equal those tallied by season (page 2) due to the fact that multiple equipment types (shotgun, handgun, and muzzleloader) can be used during the firearm season. Muzzleloaders may also be used during both the firearm and muzzleloader season. Additionally, differences arise due to the different methods required to partition data where either the equipment and or the season is unknown,

### Harvest by License Status

Licensed hunters accounted for 86% of the total deer harvest. Landowners and lessees who hunted on their own land without a license and military personnel on official leave status accounted for 14% of the total deer harvest. Of the deer harvested by license-exempt hunters, 98% were taken by landowners/tenants and 2% by military personnel on leave.

Number of deer harvested in each Indiana county during 2002.

County	No. Harvested			County	No. Harvested		
	Antlered	Antler-less	Total*		Antlered	Antler-less	Total*
Adams	208	272	480	Lawrence	623	678	1,302
Allen	521	636	1,157	Madison	201	309	510
Bartholomew	336	296	632	Marion	118	89	207
Benton	61	55	116	Marshall	818	882	1,700
Blackford	149	224	373	Martin	742	803	1,545
Boone	151	149	299	Miami	504	594	1,098
Brown	746	271	1,017	Monroe	686	828	1,514
Carroll	310	390	700	Montgomery	414	520	934
Cass	501	570	1,071	Morgan	511	573	1,085
Clark	682	863	1,545	Newton	422	402	825
Clay	410	620	1,031	Noble	970	1,237	2,207
Clinton	146	158	304	Ohio	351	698	1,049
Crawford	735	690	1,425	Orange	848	1,213	2,061
Daviess	569	864	1,433	Owen	737	615	1,352
Dearborn	943	1,461	2,404	Parke	1,005	1,371	2,377
Decatur	174	195	369	Perry	989	961	1,950
Dekalb	694	835	1,529	Pike	753	963	1,716
Delaware	225	314	539	Porter	466	667	1,133
Dubois	670	987	1,656	Posey	649	547	1,195
Elkhart	504	540	1,045	Pulaski	522	550	1,072
Fayette	259	322	581	Putnam	808	891	1,699
Floyd	191	261	452	Randolph	226	320	546
Fountain	573	659	1,232	Ripley	706	1,029	1,735
Franklin	918	1,504	2,423	Rush	135	110	245
Fulton	567	700	1,267	Saint Joseph	419	404	823
Gibson	557	720	1,278	Scott	408	512	920
Grant	243	252	495	Shelby	124	162	286
Greene	874	839	1,713	Spencer	645	648	1,293
Hamilton	169	121	290	Starke	478	525	1,002
Hancock	112	135	247	Steuben	1,125	1,458	2,584
Harrison	849	1,104	1,953	Sullivan	753	734	1,487
Hendricks	208	205	413	Switzerland	1,034	1,373	2,408
Henry	203	303	506	Tippecanoe	455	611	1,066
Howard	136	166	302	Tipton	46	19	64
Huntington	454	558	1,011	Union	203	261	464
Jackson	919	1,443	2,362	Vanderburg	325	504	829
Jasper	530	608	1,138	Vermillion	475	417	892
Jay	288	518	807	Vigo	519	677	1,196
Jefferson	893	1,297	2,190	Wabash	563	425	988
Jennings	641	828	1,469	Warren	472	543	1,015
Johnson	211	260	471	Warrick	643	701	1,344
Knox	460	501	961	Washington	1,071	1,330	2,401
Kosciusko	979	897	1,876	Wayne	375	364	739
Lagrange	665	1,288	1,954	Wells	241	284	525
Lake	435	504	939	White	334	399	733
Laporte	764	1,073	1,837	Whitley	431	591	1,023

\* Totals may be off +/- 1 due to rounding during partitioning of harvested deer of unknown sex or county.